

The so-called
"donation" by the
Pappas Telecasting
Companies of
\$325,000 in airtime
to Republican
candidates in
certain areas is yet
another example of a
powerful media group
that is abusing its
privileged access to
the public airwaves.

The local citizenry
and their interests
are not served when
a corporate
headquarters decides
to provide one side
in local elections a
louder voice than
others. During
election season,
local audiences
should be offered
genuine debate --
not disingenuous
offers to "purchase"
an equal amount of
response time.

Pappas uses the
public airwaves free
of charge and is
obliged by law to
serve the public
interest. Pappas'
actions are legally
questionable and
cast doubt on
whether Pappas truly
intends to serve the
public interest.
Their actions show
why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them.
Further, they show
why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than just a
returned postcard.
Thank you.